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English literature in its entirety, we have given ourselves up to the study of individual authors and even of single productions, and often forget to study their relations to each other or to their times. A little experience as a student with the catalogue method, and as a teacher with the work of individual authors, has led the writer of this notice to agree fully with Mr. Painter. Those of us who teach mainly by the study of individual authors do not always realize that our freshmen, and even our seniors, are almost entirely ignorant of the general course of our literature, and even of some of its great names. If you ask a class for the names of twelve or fifteen of our greatest writers and their approximate dates, you will be surprised at the ignorance displayed.

Not all of the remedies for this trouble are worth while. For instance, a brief sketchy introduction to English literature, or even to its fiction, on which the class spends only a week or two, is practically a waste of time. The facts must have a chance to soak in, for familiarity comes only with time.

Mr. Painter's book has two or three distinctly good qualities. He has picked out thirty odd writers about whom he talks in detail. The rest he subordinates to a few lines, which give little more than dates and titles. He thus keeps a very fair prospective, and helps students to discriminate between merely interesting writers and important ones.

The book is not meant to be taken by itself, but is to guide and supplement the reading of particular texts, so it contains no selections at all. Its use will save time in class, for the teacher may assign lessons in it instead of trying to supply the information verbally.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the book, and a very important one, is the series of carefully chosen and splendidly printed portraits. Those of Swift, Johnson, Cowper, and Macaulay are especially illuminating, and those of the Victorian writers are mostly taken from now famous paintings.

EDWARD P. MORTON

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#### SOME RECENT FRENCH BOOKS

*Contes Bleus.* Par ÉDOUARD LABOULAGE. Edited by C. Fontaine, High School, Washington, D. C. Pp. 148. Price 40 cents. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

*Contes et Saynètes.* Edited by T. F. Colin, Miss Baldwin's Preparatory School, Bryn Mawr, Pa. Pp. 160. Price 65 cents. Boston: Ginn & Company.

*Les Fautes de Langage, ou le Français comme on le parle.* Par VICTOR F. BERNARD. W. R. Jenkins, New York.

*Contes Bleus* is a charming little book of fairy tales suited to beginners. The stories are simple in language and very attractive in material. It is an admirable book for first French readings.

*Contes et Saynètes* is a welcome addition to our stock of readers. This book contains selections from modern authors and prepares the student for a further and

more intimate acquaintance with them. This book should find a place for itself. It is exceedingly neat and attractive in appearance.

*Les Fautes de Langage* is a valuable book for Americans. It explains difficulties that they meet every day, and the book is admirable in its purpose. I wish it contained more material. I can gladly say that this book *est* "*digne de la faveur des élèves et des suffrages des professeurs.*"

H. P. WILLIAMSON

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